

potent instrument that ever was conceived or devised by men for diffusing the blessings of law and order, of freedom and duty, of service and mercy, throughout the world. (Loud applause).

Now I wish it to be clearly understood that in the imperialism of which I am a devotee there is no question of interference by the Parliament of one kingdom with the Parliament of another kingdom or dominion within the Empire. To me it is quite immaterial whether you call Canada a kingdom or a dominion. No, gentlemen, what we have to pay attention to is not the name but the fact—and the fact that every self-governing country in the British Empire enjoys the security, so long as it retains its allegiance to the British Crown—that the strength of the Empire shall be exercised whenever necessary to ensure that self-governing state in the continuous enjoyment of its self-governing rights is the fact that makes us all loyal Imperialists. (Applause).

It is because British Imperialism means the fullest, widest, freest development of the national spirit of the self-governing dominions which now are the sister states of the Empire, it is because every one of us, whether he be of Dutch or of French or of German or of English descent, has the right and the power to develop to the fullest possible extent the influence of his race within the Empire, and through the Empire on the world outside; it is for this reason that every subject of the crown, whatever may be the nation from which he descends, can safely and enthusiastically proclaim himself a British citizen. (Applause).

Gentlemen, when I came to this country seven years ago, Canada was still in her colonial clothes. Imperial garrisons at Halifax and Esquimaux proclaimed the fact that you, the people of Canada, were content to lie down on the overburdened people of the United Kingdom for your protection. No act in my governor-generalship has given me greater satisfaction and pleasure than that of announcing the readiness of the Dominion to make herself responsible for her own defence and authorizing the withdrawal of the Imperial troops from Canadian ports. I was warned at the time that this withdrawal meant the end of the Imperial connection. Gentlemen, that was not my view. To me the withdrawal of the Imperial garrisons from your Dominion seaports was a proclamation to the world that a new national spirit had been born in Canada; a spirit which was too proud to add a single ounce more than necessary of the weight of Empire to the overburdened shoulders of John Bull (applause); a spirit which was resolved to lie down not upon others but on yourselves, a spirit which was determined to equip yourselves with the strength which would enable you to work out your own national salvation, and to make the greatest contribution to the common work of the Empire that your strength and resources would permit. (Loud applause).

It is undoubtedly true that at the present moment Canada is a dependent independency. That is a result not of your desire, but of present conditions. You are undoubtedly dependent for your security, for the continuance of your political liberties, on the supremacy of the British Navy. It may be said